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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**REPEAT OFFENDER SENTENCED FOR  
CREDIT CARD FRAUD**

**PRESS RELEASE**

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that CATRINA BRIGHTWELL, 33, Indianapolis, Indiana, was sentenced to 69 months imprisonment today by Chief U.S. District Judge Larry J. McKinney following her guilty plea to credit card fraud, failure to appear, and violation of her supervised release from her earlier conviction in 2000 for interstate transportation of stolen computer equipment. This case was the result of a 2 year investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and United States Marshal's Service.

BRIGHTWELL became employed by Guidant Corporation as an administrative assistant to four members of management following her sentence of imprisonment in 2000 for interstate transportation of stolen computer equipment.. At Guidant, BRIGHTWELL used credit cards that

were only for her managers' work-related expenses to purchase personal items, including tuition at an on-line university, flowers for family member's wedding, a dog at a pet store, and several pre-paid charge cards at an Indianapolis drug store. Upon her termination from Guidant, she was facing a supervised release violation for her former federal conviction in 2000 for transporting stolen property across state lines. After being ordered to appear in court on June 23, 2003, BRIGHTWELL fled Indiana and went to Tennessee, South Carolina, Florida, Louisiana, and Texas. In these places, and before she was arrested on March 9, 2005, in Houston, Texas, BRIGHTWELL used numerous alias names and birth dates and committed numerous acts of fraud, including setting up several bogus corporations, using these false identities. BRIGHTWELL's lifestyle from the funds she obtained from fraudulent banking activity and theft from merchants allowed her to live in rental houses for free and drive expensive vehicles. Since 1990, BRIGHTWELL is thought to have used more than 30 alias names, several of which were only slightly varied from actual names belonging to individuals she befriended through her temporary employment positions or in social settings.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Gayle L. Helart, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge McKinney also imposed 3 years supervised release following BRIGHTWELL's release from imprisonment. During the period of supervised release, BRIGHTWELL must get drug treatment. BRIGHTWELL was ordered to make restitution of more than \$102,000.

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